



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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1 December 2014

Excellency,

In my capacity as Special Rapporteur for Follow-up on Concluding Observations of the Human Rights Committee, I have the honour to refer to follow-up to the examination of the first periodic report of Turkmenistan.

At the end of its 104th session, the Committee transmitted its concluding observations to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that, in paragraph 24 of the concluding observations, the Committee requested the State party to provide within one year further information on the specific areas of concern identified in paragraphs 9, 13 and 18 of the concluding observations.

Follow-up information on the paragraphs referred to was received on 31 August 2012. At its 109th session, held in October 2013, the Committee noted that the information provided was incomplete and requested additional information from the State party.

On 6 February 2014, the State party sent complementary information to the Human Rights Committee. At its 112th session, held in October 2014 in Geneva, the Committee analysed this information and adopted the following decisions:

- On paragraph 9: **[B2]**: With regard to subparagraph (a), the Committee notes that the State party has updated its Criminal Code to incorporate the crime of torture. The Committee requests further information on the implementation of Article 182-1 in accordance with the State party's obligations.
[C2]: With regard to subparagraphs (b) and (c) the State party has not provided new information. The Committee reiterates its recommendations.
[C2]: With regard to subparagraph (d), the State party has not provided new information. The Committee reiterates its recommendation.
- On paragraph 13: **[D2]**: The State party did not provide a response to this issue. The Committee reiterates its recommendations.

His Excellency Atageldi Haljanov
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative
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- On paragraph 18: [C1]: Measures remain necessary to protect and promote freedom of opinion and expression. The Committee requests further information on:
- (a) the implementation of the Media Act of 22 December 2012 and efforts to promote and respect the rights to freedom of expression and opinion through an independent media;
 - (b) measures taken to increase access to the Internet and ensure that this access is not restricted;
 - (c) measures taken to allow international human rights organizations access into the State party;
 - (d) rules on the ownership of newspapers and magazines and whether these rules are in conformity with the Covenant; and
 - (e) efforts to protect and promote the preparation and dissemination of information, free from the risk of intimidation and harassment.

Taking into account that the next periodic report of the State party is due by 30 March 2015, the Committee considered that the follow-up procedure has come to an end. Nonetheless, the State party is required to provide the Committee with information on the issues referred to in the context of its second periodic report.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing its constructive dialogue with the authorities of Turkmenistan on the implementation of the Covenant.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Fabián Omar Salvioli
Special Rapporteur for Follow-up to Concluding Observations
Human Rights Committee